



U.S. Department of Justice
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Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

August 20, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. JOSE ARMANDO ANDINO

United States Attorney MICHAEL A. BATTLE announced today that JOSE ARMANDO ANDINO, age 30, of Buffalo, New York pled guilty on August 19, 2004, before Hon. Richard J. Arcara, Chief United States District Judge to a felony count of an Indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, carrying a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of 40 years imprisonment, a fine of \$2,000,000.00, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Clare Kane, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was arrested in April of 2002 after he returned from New York City with a kilogram of cocaine. On April 16, 2002, DEA agents were aware that Andino had rented a car and traveled to New York City. They surveilled Andino as he returned to the Buffalo area and arrested him. Buffalo Police Detective William Donovan, a member of the investigative team for DEA,

searched Andino's home and recovered a loaded Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum revolver from under a waterbed in defendant's bedroom. A kilogram of cocaine was discovered wrapped in a towel in the basement of Andino's residence.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Mark J. Peterson.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 30, 2004, at 12:30 p.m. in front of Hon. Richard J., Arcara, Chief United States District Judge.